

# B R E V I O R A

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### NOTES ON CERTAIN SPECIES OF MICRATHENA (ARANEAE, ARGIOPIDAE) FROM SOUTH AMERICA

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During a period of work in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris during the summer of 1958 Dr. Herbert W. Levi, Associate Curator of Arachnology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, examined types of nine species of *Micrathena* Sundevall 1833, all originally described from South America by the great arachnologist, Eugène Simon. All of these species are poorly known and most of them have not appeared in collections since the originals were studied by their author. All were briefly described in 1896; four were mentioned in 1895 and accompanied by five simple figures. During the examination of the types mentioned Dr. Levi made free-hand drawings of the dorsal surface of the abdomens to show general form and spination. He also made careful drawings of the external genitalia when the latter were available; these were made with the use of a reticule with squares. All of the drawings made by Dr. Levi were turned over to the author to use as he saw fit in connection with his study of the genus. The figures appearing in this paper were made directly from Dr. Levi's original pencil drawings. The outline figures of abdomens are freehand copies with enlargement; the drawings of genitalia were made with tracing paper directly from Dr. Levi's originals. It has seemed worth while to present these data, thus obtained, with the hope that they will be of some help to others who may continue the study of this most interesting genus.

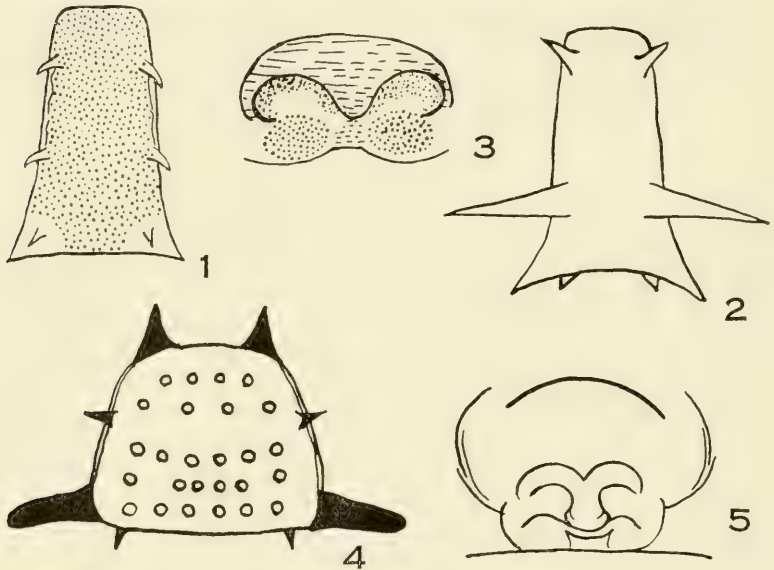
MICRATHENA ACICULATA Simon, 1897  
(Figure 1)

*M. aciculata* Petrunkevitch, 1911

*M. aciculata* Roewer, 1942

*M. aciculata* Bonnet, 1957

The type is an immature female from Venezuela. Apparently the species has not been reported in collections since the original was taken. The general form of the abdomen with its spination,



External Anatomy of *Micrathena*

Figure 1, *M. aciculata*, abdomen, dorsal view.

Figures 2, 3. *M. gaujoni*, abdomen, dorsal view and epigynum, respectively.

Figures 4, 5. *M. hamifera*, abdomen, dorsal view and epigynum, respectively.

seen in dorsal view, is shown in Figure 1. The stippled area is black and the postero-lateral corners are white. The male is unknown.

MICRATHENA GAUJONI Simon, 1897  
(Figures 2, 3)

*M. gaujoni* Petrunkevitch, 1911

*M. gaujoni* Reimoser, 1917

*M. gaujoni* Roewer, 1942

*M. gaujoni* Bonnet, 1957

Simon stated that the type was 8.7 mm. long and similar to *M. fissispina* (C. Koch), but this hardly seems correct. There are four pairs of spines, the second pair the longest (Fig. 2). The epigynum has a pair of depressions directed posteriorly beneath an overhanging rim (Fig. 3). The type is from Ecuador and the male is unknown.

MICRATHENA HAMIFERA Simon, 1897

(Figures 4, 5)

The length of the holotype was given as 9 mm. The general form of the abdomen with its spination is shown in Figure 4. The dorsal surface is like white enamel in general appearance. Figure 5 shows the form of the epigynum from "slightly behind"; just posterior to the curved boundary there is a large "sclerotized knob." The female is known only from Peru and the male is still unknown.

MICRATHENA IMBELLIS Simon, 1895

(Figure 6)

*M. imbellis* Simon, 1897

*M. imbellis* Petrunkevitch, 1911

*M. imbellis* Reimoser, 1917

*M. imbellis* Roewer, 1942

*M. imbellis* Bonnet, 1957

Simon (1895) included a figure showing the right side of the abdomen with no spines. Reimoser (1917) just mentioned the species and did not include it in his further treatment of the genus. The general appearance of the dorsal surface of the abdomen is shown in Figure 6; the stippled areas in the figure are black in the type. Dr. Levi has determined that the type is an immature female from Venezuela. The male is unknown.

MICRATHENA PERLATA Simon, 1895

(Figures 7, 8)

*M. perlata* Simon, 1897

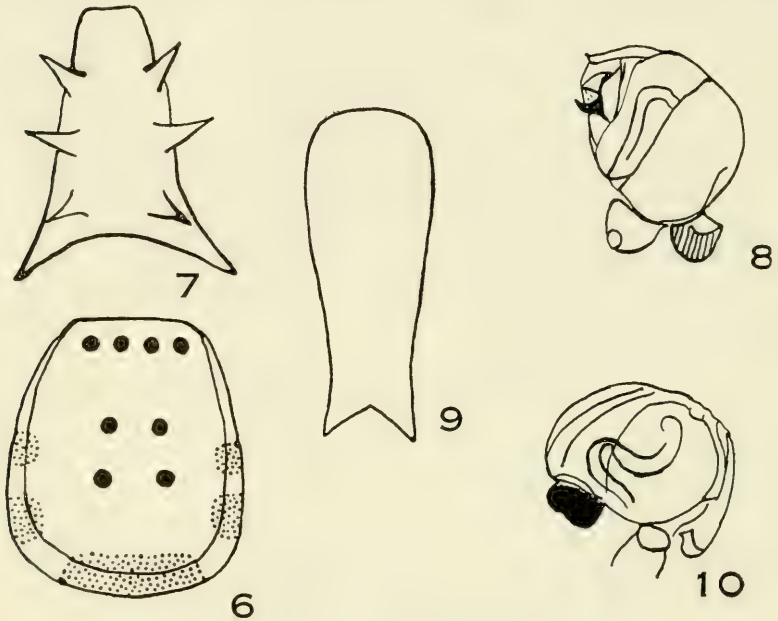
*M. perlata* Petrunkevitch, 1911

*M. perlata* Reimoser, 1917

*M. perlata* Roewer, 1942

*M. perlata* Bonnet, 1957

The length of the female type is given as 6 mm. Dr. Levi has found that it also is immature. The general appearance of the dorsal surface of the abdomen is shown in Figure 7. The immature female is accompanied by a male which may or may not



External Anatomy of *Micrathena*

Figure 6. *M. imbellis*, abdomen, dorsal view.

Figures 7, 8. *M. perlata*, abdomen, dorsal view and male palp, respectively.

Figures 9, 10. *M. pubescens*, abdomen, dorsal view and male palp, respectively.

be properly paired with it. Figure 8 shows certain features of the palpal tarsus. The specimens are simply labelled "Amazon." Simon (1895) stated that the type came from: "Brasilia: S. Paulo de Olwenca (de Mathan)."

MICRATHENA PUBESCENS Simon, 1895  
(Figures 9, 10)

*M. pubescens* Simon, 1897

*M. pubescens* Petrunkevitch, 1911

*M. pubescens* Reimoser, 1917

*M. pubescens* Roewer, 1942

*M. pubescens* Bonnet, 1957

The female type is immature. The abdomen is hairy and suggests a close relationship with *M. furcula* (O. P. Cambridge) from Central America. There are no true spines but the posterior end of the abdomen is somewhat bifurcate. Simon (1895) furnished figures to show the right side of the abdomen and the bifurcate posterior end. The immature female is accompanied by a mature male the palpal tarsus of which is shown in one position in Figure 10. Caution must always be exercised in matching the sexes in this genus and this male should be very carefully studied and compared with the growing number of different kinds of known males. The specimens are from Matto Grosso, Brazil.

MICRATHENA PUPA Simon, 1897  
(Figures 11, 12)

*M. pupa* Petrunkevitch, 1911

*M. pupa* Reimoser, 1917

*M. pupa* Roewer, 1942

*M. pupa* Bonnet, 1957

The length of the type is given as 8 mm. The form of the abdomen and its spination are shown in Figure 11 and some of the features of the epigynum in Figure 12. The type female is from Ecuador. Simon apparently had a male associated with the female but Dr. Levi did not find it in the collection. Presumably it is lost and the original description does not give what we now consider to be the important diagnostic male features.

MICRATHENA TOVARENSIS Simon, 1897  
(Figures 13, 14)

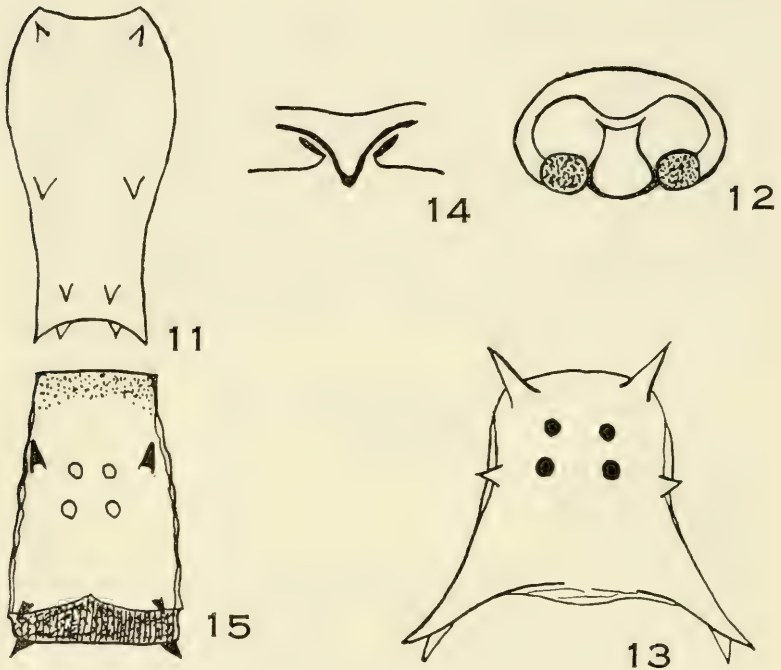
*M. towarensis* Petrunkevitch, 1911

*M. towarensis* Reimoser, 1917

*M. towarensis* Roewer, 1942

*M. towarensis* Bonnet, 1957

The length of the female type is given as 7.8 mm. The general appearance of the abdomen and its spines, as seen in dorsal view, are shown in Figure 13. The appearance of the epigynum as shown in Dr. Levi's drawing is given in Figure 14. The type is from Venezuela. The male is unknown.



External Anatomy of *Micrathena*

- Figures 11, 12. *M. pupa*, abdomen, dorsal view and epigynum, respectively.  
 Figures 13, 14. *M. tovarensis*, abdomen, dorsal view and epigynum, respectively.  
 Figure 15. *M. xanthopyga*, abdomen, dorsal view.

*MICRATHENA XANTHOPYGA* Simon, 1895  
 (Figure 15)

*M. xanthopyga* Simon, 1897

*M. xanthopyga* Petrunkevitch, 1911

*M. xanthopyga* Reimoser, 1917

*M. xanthopyga* Roewer, 1942

*M. xanthopyga* Bonnet, 1957

The type is an immature female whose general appearance in dorsal view is shown in Figure 15. Simon (1895) published a figure of the type viewed from the right side. This figure shows four pairs of spines instead of three, as shown in Dr. Levi's drawing. The type is from Venezuela. The male is unknown.

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